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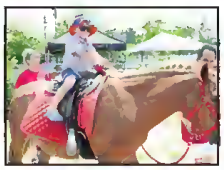

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Veteran honoured with medal from France

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Marc Trouyet, Consul General of France, presents the Légion d'Honneur to Fort Erie's Norman Edward 'Duffy' Andrews with family member Marybeth Andrews at his side during a ceremony at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 71 last Thursday. See page 2 for the full story.

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Second World War veteran receives medal from France

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie's Norman Edward 'Duffy' Andrews has had a special honour bestowed upon him.

He joins more than 1,000 Canadians who have been recognized by France with its National Order of Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour) Chevalier class medal.

Marc Trouyet, Consul Général de France, presented the medal to the Second World War veteran during a ceremony held at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 71 last Thursday afternoon. Andrews' family, friends, fellow veterans and political dignitaries including Mayor Wayne Redekop and MPP Wayne Gates also attended the event.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, Trouyet said the French government decided to present awards to the remaining Canadian veterans that participated in D-Day operations.

It is the highest-ranking decoration in France, which is usually awarded to French nationals, however it is sometimes given to individuals from other countries that have served France.

"The Légion d'Honneur is the highest decoration we can bestow, it is the equivalent of the Order of Canada," Trouyet said.

Trouyet said giving the medal to Canadian veterans is meant to recognize the efforts and the sacrifice of a generation that went to France to free its citizens from tyranny.

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Mayor Wayne Redekop presents a certificate of recognition from the Town of Fort Erie to Norman Edward 'Duffy' Andrews with family member Marybeth Andrews at his side during a ceremony at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 71 last Thursday. Andrews received the Légion d'Honneur from France.

"You came to help the people of France to gain freedom from tyranny and terror," Trouyet said.

"Your accomplishments during the Second World War are a reminder of the relationships that bound us together, France and Canada."

Both countries continue to enjoy a very special relationship, he said.

"The French people will never forget the boundless bravery from these Canadian soldiers during the Normandy landings to help restore our freedom."

Andrews enlisted in the Canadian Forces on June 24, 1940. He joined 16 other men who rode in the back of a pick-up truck from Fort Erie to the armoury in Niagara Falls.

Andrews would go on to train as a signaller at sites that include Niagara-on-the-Lake and British Columbia. He was stationed in England before he landed in Normandy in early June 1944.

"As a signaller, my father, who was responsible for communications in the field, often found himself in the middle of front line combat," Chris Andrews said.

Less than two months after landing in Normandy, Andrews was wounded for the first time on Aug. 10, 1944, blasted by shrapnel.

"If not for his mobile 18-set radio on his back, he may not be here with us today," his son said.

While recovering in hospital in England, Andrews couldn't wait to get back with his regiment.

He was injured for a second time when "he and his comrades came across an improvised explosive device," which exploded in his hands while he examined it.

"This event on March 12, 1945 marked the end of his campaign in combat."

Chris Andrews said his father was flown back to England where he recovered in hospital until he returned to Canada in June 1945.

He was formally discharged on Aug. 10, 1945.

CONTINUED>PAGE 3

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SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

From left, are Chris Andrews, Mayor Wayne Redekop, Marybeth Andrews, Norman Andrews, Marc Trouyet, Consul General of France, and Lt. Col. Roger Vandomme of France, Deputy of Defence.

Veteran thankful for 'beautiful tribute'

CONTINUED FROM>PAGE 2

He was formally discharged on Aug. 10, 1945.

"For those that know my father very well, he is a humble veteran who has not expected anything much in the form of recognition for his service to the Lincoln and Welland Regiment and his country," Chris Andrews said. "He has always acknowledged that he and his comrades had served their regiment and their country well and that all of them are deserving of the Legion of Honour."

The veteran said he was honoured to receive the medal and thanked Trouyet for the "beautiful tribute" to the memory of his fellow members of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment during the liberation of France.

"It's a tribute in this way because I am one of many from my regiment. I want to include them all (in this honour)."

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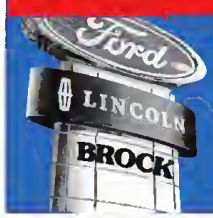

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Ridgeway Summer Festival this weekend

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

A summer tradition will return to Ridgeway this weekend.

The Ridgeway Summer Festival, planned for July 9 and 10, will take place on Ridge Road.

Festival organizer Jesse Boles said last year's event, which saw about 35,000 people attend, was "the busiest (the festival) has ever been."

He said he expects a similar crowd this year, with the festival's opening ceremony set to begin Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

There's plenty to do for the family including a farmers market on Saturday morning, live music, food, crafts, a Kids Zone and games.

"New this year is a licensed wine-tasting alley with vendors from across Niagara," Boles said.

The festival will offer a variety of live entertainment such as the Bryce Moore Band, The Associates, The Barby Collins Band, Guilty Pleasures, Niagara String Band, Bass Boat Cowboys, Heidi Joshua, Spencer Mackenzie, Barley Brae and a tribute show to country, blues and jazz.

The Ridgeway Lions are hosting a pancake breakfast on both days beginning at 8 a.m. at the Village Square.

Ridgway Crystal Beach Kinsmen members will host their annual street dance at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Ridgeway Lioness Club members have planned their fifth annual Psychic Fair and Wellness Expo for Saturday and Sunday at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are $30 per person. For more information about the fair or for tickets call 905-894-0598.

The Classic Car Show will be held Sunday between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Admission is free. The festival will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

saferguson@postmedia.com

FORT ERIE TIMES FILE PHOTO

Easton Belfry, 4, is riding a pony in this file photo from last year's Ridgeway Summer Festival. The two-day event, which is a long standing tradition in the community, returns to Ridge Road this weekend.

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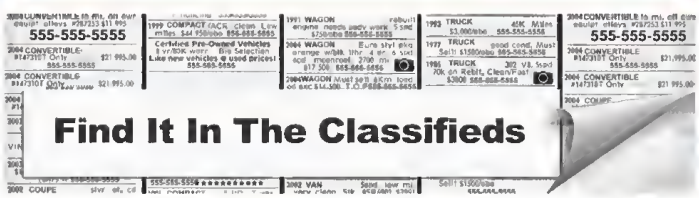

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The Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Long wait takes edge off GO train news

It's not an all-systems-go GO, but a slow GO is better than a no-GO. You know?

Considering the excited talk by some politicians from around the region in the lead-up to this, last Tuesday's confirmation by the provincial government that GO trains will roll into Niagara — but not until 2021 — was good news, but it felt a little like a letdown, too.

And it won't reach Niagara Falls until 2023, seven years from now.

The province says it needs to add 30 kilometres of new track, improve some of the existing track, build a new station on Casablanca Boulevard in Grimsby and upgrade the existing stations in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

It needs to add new trains, too, and probably hire some new staff.

A person on the street might read that and say: "Yeah, but the track is already there. The stations are already there. What are they waiting for?"

Good question.

Niagara Falls has been receiving summer GO train service for several years now. It isn't perfect — the canal still poses a problem time-wise — but the trip does work.

Why not start regular service now, or even next year, and improve it over time?

The province's answer is that GO needs to negotiate with CN for permission to use its rail lines during the week.

Those lines are used by CN trains to haul freight, and apparently it's one thing to use them on the weekend but quite another to do so during the week.

And the change in plan to have Niagara trains connect to the still-unbuilt Confederation station in Hamilton, rather than the existing James Street North one, requires more time and new track.

So, fair enough.

But five or seven years?

That's at least one provincial election away, possibly more. Most of the politicians currently in office locally and provincially will have moved on by then.

That's way too much time for things to happen — economies could tank and government priorities might change.

And there was no cost estimate revealed Tuesday. That's a definite concern.

So, it will take some patience to wait for these trains.

When it does come, regular GO train service has the potential to be a huge boost for tourism.

It will tap into the Toronto market like never before, allow travellers to bypass the Burlington bottleneck on the QEW and avoid that inevitable long line of stranded cars coming into Niagara every weekend.

As well, it will make Niagara an even more attractive place to live for people who currently pay exorbitant mortgage rates in the GTA and want to escape without moving off to the hinterlands.

Five years (and seven for Niagara Falls) is a long, long time to wait. At the end of the day, however, the prize is worth the wait.

—Postmedia Network

Do you remember?

Our thanks to Gary Wilcox and Patricia Naylor who both remember well the events surrounding last week's photo of the picketers on the beach. These beach protests were organized by a group called APEEL - Association for the Preservation of Erie East Lakefront. Their purpose was to make sure that all public access points were open to the public. There were many similar protests at local beaches, but this one was a large-scale demonstration at Sherkston during 1967 when Sherkston Shores was first being privatized. The man with the beard to the left was Reverend Robert Wright, an NDP candidate in Welland and a mentor to the late Peter Kormos. This week, we have a man displaying heroic courage. If you remember this performer or the event he performed at, please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or e-mail museum@forterie.ca

Plato: What was thought to be an otter was actually a mink

There are two people in nature I hold in the highest regard.

One person is the late Bert Miller and the other is Ernie Giles, formerly of Fort Erie but now from the Lake of Bays.

Ernie called me one day. He asked if he and Bert could stop in for a while and visit. I agreed, and it was a chance to show them this photo I have of the otter.

"Otter?" They both said, "That's not an otter, Earl." They proceeded to show me why. It's a wild mink. But Stephanie, who lived on the Niagara Boulevard, said that it was so playful like an otter. She was able to approach it.

Can you get that close to a wild mink? Yes, was the answer. I remembered that I had an Audubon Mammal book. We looked up River otter and mink. There was the proof. The mink is much smaller. The shape of the head was conclusive as we looked at the photos. Ernie just looked at me as if to say, "Earl, give it up."

Note: Ernie Giles has returned to Fort Erie. He and wife, Glynis, now live in Black Creek. A great naturalist is back in town.

***

Every Father's Day I think about past fathers. I remembered a friend at this time. He's gone. Mr. 'Eagle' is gone.

Bob Chambers passed away suddenly in May, 2008. Gone is a man who knew the presence of the Bald eagle locally as well as anyone I knew. Whether it be eagles on Navy Island or an eerie on the Grand River near Dunnville Bob would investigate their presence.

Even after being confined to a wheelchair he used the internet to keep informed. Many of us in the Bert Miller Nature Club have missed him. He was an amazing man. Bob would dedicate himself completely to a project. Bob was intimately involved in the Peregrine Falcon Watch in Niagara Falls several years ago. He spent countless hours there. A very good photographer he gave me some great shots of the parents and young of the resident falcons.

Lesson learned. If you or I suffer some debilitating illness take stock from Bob. With good wife Emma he was able to carry on a productive life. You were always greeted with a warm welcome from him. The big man was ever learning about nature. He designed the Bert Miller Club badge with the Pileated woodpecker drawn by him. This beautiful bird was sighted back in Marcy Woods this spring. I wanted to call Bob with the news. Sadly, too late. His pastor at his funeral gave a wonderful overview of his life. One great man, Bob Chambers, and we have missed him.

***

Dave Mitchell, long time very active member of the Bert Miller Nature Club, passed away recently. Dave was an avid nature lover. I have many fine books purchased from him, He actively supported environmental issues. We shall miss him.

Earl Plato is a Fort Erie resident, local historian and nature lover.

Library has plenty of activities to keep boredom from setting in this summer

The kids are out of school, and the Fort Erie Public Library has a great line-up of activities to keep everyone busy.

Wild about Science with educator Amy Wilson, just one of many programs this month, will be offered each Thursday evening at the Crystal Ridge branch, for ages seven to 12.

Here are a few of the exciting sessions planned: Wild about Weather on July 7, when participants may be making their own volcanoes, or creating rain in a cup.

On July 14, young people can get Wild about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) with physics challenges that are lots of fun.

Get Wild about The Human Body on July 21: would you rather create a digestive system, make fake vomit, or see your heart beat? Whichever you do, you'll learn a lot and have a super time.

On July 28, you can be Wild about Food, and make something yummy to eat. Space is limited in each of the Wild about Science sessions, so we encourage you to register soon, whether you plan to attend just one or all four. The fee is $2 for each session.

In Games and Gadgets for ages five to seven on Monday, July 11 at the Centennial branch, we'll play Balloon Badminton, learn the moves to a Just Dance song, and then experiment with gadgets like Makey Makey and LittleBits! In Robot Club on Tuesday, July 12 at the Crystal Ridge branch, kids from seven to 15 years old can have fun with the Ozobots. Solve robotic brain teasers and create a robot game by coding a robot with colour!

In the Stop Motion Factory which begins on Wednesday, July 13 at the Stevensville branch, young people from 7 years and up will be introduced to the art of video creation. Learn the basics of animation and start creating your own claymation videos. For more information, or to register for any of these super programs, ask at any library branch.

We have just observed a holiday dedicated to Canada as a nation. The library collection includes numerous books that celebrate our country: its history and politics, its scenery, its citizens—many different aspects that make this land unique. If you are interested in 20th century North America, you may want to try John Boyko's Cold Fire: Kennedy's Northern Front, which tells the story of the political machinations of Kennedy, John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson during the Cold War. Staking claims to a Continent: John A. Macdonald, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, and the making of North America by James Laxer offers insight on an earlier era of geopolitics.

It is important for readers to realize the full, rich story of the peoples who were part of this land long before the signing of the British North America Act in 1867, and An Illustrated History of Canada's Native People: I have lived here since the world began by Arthur Ray, and Thomas King's The Inconvenient Indian are helpful.

Explore the scenic wonders of Canada in any of our travel books and videos, including Carolyn B. Heller's Moon Handbook for Ontario. It is not only our natural resources that make our country great; Canada is rich in human resources, as well. James Bartleman, Ontario's first Aboriginal Lieutenant Governor has written several books; his most recent memoir is Seasons of Hope. Our Governor General, David Johnston, recently published The Idea of Canada: letters to a nation. Not every Canadian hero is famous: try Precious Cargo: my year driving the kids on school bus 3077 by Craig Davidson to learn about his experience with some very brave young people. All of these books and many more are available by asking at any branch, or by using our website www.fepl.ca.

Amy Wilson is returning to the Fort Erie Public Library this summer to offer amazing science activities to children through the library's Wild About Science program.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

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Vitamin G a prescription for happiness

We are a culture obsessed with happiness.

Just take a look at the self-help sections of any book store, perform a Google search on happiness, or consider the millions of North Americans using anti-depressants and you will see that our cultural landscape is rife with tools and instructions on how to be happy.

Of course, there are legitimate reasons to be unhappy. And no one wants to minimize the debilitating effects of depression; it can be a crippling mental illness. But unhappiness does not equal depression and it's important to recognize the difference.

But why then, when one's mental, physical and fiscal health are in good order, can happiness remain so elusive?

One reason is what researchers from around the world confirm as the human brain's negativity bias. Yes, our brains are hard-wired to focus on the 'nasty.' It's a primal instinct that kept us safe when roaming the savannahs hunting for our survival. But in today's context we are walking around in a post-millennial world with brains that are more stimulated by negativity than positivity. In other words, this primal instinct that kept us safe is now a huge drag that wreaks havoc with our personal lives and can interfere with our ability to reach our goals.

That's not to say that walking around in a perpetual state of happiness is a realistic option either. Unhappiness is actually a part of a full and rich life. The key is to strike a healthy balance between the two.

Lucky for us, there are tools that can increase our happiness quotient. And even better, they are free and accessible to everyone, providing you are open to learning and making a conscious effort to applying them. Keep in mind, behavioural change requires an ongoing deliberate effort if you want results. But like any muscle, exercised regularly, your brain will start to rewire its way of thinking and the world will become a much brighter place.

At Bridges Community Health Centre, one of four CHCs in Niagara, we offer skill-building workshops that help with overcoming the 'stinking thinking' that can keep people down. We actually have a prescription for happiness we like to call Vitamin G, a term coined by our social worker Len Dykstra, or our 'Grati-Dude' as he's recently been dubbed.

G is for Gratitude, a state of thankfulness and/or appreciation that offers positive health benefits and it's not a bunch of hooey. Gratitude caught the attention of psychology researchers around the turn of the century and there is real science that supports that an attitude of gratitude is good for you. When practiced, gratitude contributes to one's overall sense of wellbeing, improves emotional health, and leads to deeper relationships to better sleep and less physical pain.

Think of gratitude as a happiness activity and everyday life an opportunity to exercise it. It could be journalling what you are grateful for, things big and small, and writing three or four of them down every day. If journalling isn't your thing, spend some quiet time contemplating and reflecting on the good stuff going on in your life. You can also practice an attitude of gratitude by thanking others when you see them or by sending them an e-mail or thank-you note. Or have some fun and start a gratitude jar with your family. Use colourful paper to record daily or weekly things you are thankful for and revisit them once in a while.

There are a myriad opportunities throughout the day to exercise gratitude, you just have to look for them.

Rhonda Barron is chairwoman of the Niagara Dental Health Association and a health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre in Fort Erie.

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At the Market

Throughout the summer and fall season we will be talking about why we should come to a farmers market.

This week we will start with reason number one: You get to meet the person that actually grows, produces and makes your food.

You can ask any question about that thing you've always wondered about; like why can't we grow bananas in Ontario or how come tomatoes in winter don't taste as good as the ones we buy in the summer. Then the big question; why are some of the fruits and vegetables more expensive at a farmers' market. I can give one of the many answers right now. Only some things cost more, but most produce is considerably less at the market. We at the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers' Market invite you down to Jarvis st. on Tuesdays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. rain or shine to ask those questions in person.

One of those farmers at the market to visit and talk to is Gail Norman and Stephen Robbins of Hwy Farms in Port Colborne. Hwy Farms is a family operation established in 2008, with three generations working the farm including Gail's 81 year old Dad. Gail is a retired stationary engineer with 15 years of greenhouse experience under her belt with a specialty in ivy topiary. Stephen is a retired fire prevention officer with a minor in cabinet making. These partners are living the dream working and the farm in Port Colborne, and running the garden centre, bakery and the Family Fire Pit restaurant on Hwy 3 in Wainfleet.

Expect to see many local market garden vegetables and herbs this summer under their tent, including 5 varieties of tomatoes, some by the bushel! The bakery also has a wide selection of breads, pies, cookies, and sweet buns.

Chrystal Haverstock is the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market co-ordinator.

CHRYSTAL HAVERSTOCK/ SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

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- Light Rye Bread or a dense textured bread from Hwy Farms
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- Spread pesto on one side of each slice of bread.
- Slice cheese thinly.
- Heat a non-stick skillet or griddle to medium hot.
- Place a slice of bread in the pan, pesto side down, arrange cheese quickly and place the other side of the bread on top, pesto side up.
- Fry sandwich until nicely browned and gently and quickly flip and repeat.
- Remove from the pan quickly and add a sprinkle of sea salt, if desired. Serve immediately.

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Health Corner

How a trip to the Dentist could mean a better night's sleep: Part One

According to recent studies, approximately 20% of North Americans suffer from a sleep problem. Problems with sleep affect both men and women of every race, age, and socioeconomic class. Although lack of sleep appears to be a benign problem, its effects are far reaching. One of the major causes of sleep deprivation is obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). OSA is a complete cessation of breathing during sleep for at least 10 seconds. It affects men more than women and particularly individuals between the ages of 40 to 60. If OSA is left untreated, it can lead to an increased risk of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes, arrhythmias, as well as sleep-deprived motor vehicle accidents.

The symptoms of obstructive sleep apnea include:

- Intermittent snoring
- Poor memory
- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Irritability
- Headaches
- GERD

Risk factors for obstructive sleep apnea include:

Dr. John Inigo

- Increasing age
- Obesity
- Family history
- Male gender
- Alcohol use
- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- Asthma

You might be asking yourself, "So how does my dentist come into play with obstructive sleep apnea?" Well, aside from the above mentioned symptoms of OSA, there are several oral manifestations of obstructive sleep apnea that can be seen by your dentist that may help in the detection of OSA. These symptoms include:

- Enlarged scalloped tongue
- Pain on palpation of the jaw joints
- Jaw joint sounds when opening or closing the mouth
- Crowding of teeth
- Wear patterns on teeth

Because of the widespread prevalence of OSA and the fact that it remains largely undiagnosed in the general population, it is increasingly important that you are screened by your dentist or family doctor so that the treatment process can begin in a timely manner. Next time, we will discuss how OSA is treated and how your dentist can play a huge role in helping you get better sleep.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, Ontario. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry 905.871.2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry, 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com

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TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on August 2, 2016 at the Municipal Centre, Clerk's Department, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S6.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day at The Municipal Centre, Conference Room 1 at 3:05 p.m.

Description of Land(s)	Minimum Tender Amount $
THOMPSON RD WS, CON 3 NR PT LOT 1 RP59R11642 PARTS 7 AND 14 76.80FR 1.31AC, PIN 64236-0407(LT), ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 020 08250	$287,007.03
THOMPSON RD WS, CON 3 NR PT LOTS 1 AND 2 RP59R11642, PART 6 7.30AC, PIN 64236-0406(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 020 08275	$864,049.85

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or certified cheque by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchaser.

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and the relevant land transfer tax and HST if applicable.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

GILLIAN CORNEY, Manager, Revenue & Collections
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Redekop disappointed over approval of Waukesha water diversion application

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Mayor Wayne Redekop said he was disappointed to learn eight U.S. governors approved an application on June 21, allowing a Wisconsin City access to the Great Lakes water basin.

Redekop was among elected officials from across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin that gathered in Niagara Falls, NY for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Inatiative's (GLSCI) annual meeting and conference held June 16 in advance of the decision.

He joined elected officials as they spoke out in opposition to the City of Waukesha's application to divert water out of the Great Lakes basin.

"There are so many aspects that are wrong with this decision," the mayor said.

"In my opinion this is very short-sighted."

According to Redekop, this decision "sets a dangerous precedent" that threatens the "long-term viability of the Great Lakes basin" and could lead to more U.S. and Canadian towns and cities surrounding the basin that could qualify for Great Lakes and St. Lawrence water.

"Who is to say the next application or request won't be granted?," he said.

"Water levels will be returned through a water treatment process but we won't know if it's the same amount."

In February, Redekop said the Town of Fort Erie supported a resolution of the GLSCI and reaffirmed Fort Erie's commitment to the protection of water resources by "urging governors and the premiers of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin to reject the application from the City of Waukesha to divert water out of the Great Lakes basin."

"I believe the next step is for the Town of Fort Erie to pass a resolution to express our disappointment and encourage the Premier (Kathleen Wynne) not to support this)," he said.

The GLSCI is a binational coalition of 123 mayors and other local officials that works with the federal, state, provincial, tribal and First Nations governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

saferguson@postmedia.com

Briefs

Fort Erie home destroyed by fire

Fort Erie Fire Chief Larry Coplen said a home was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday morning.

Firefighters were called to Stanton Street in Fort Erie at 4:23 a.m. to extinguish flames that engulfed a home.

"Firefighters quickly brought the fire under control. It only took about 20 minutes or so," Coplen said.

When the fire department arrived, the homeowner was outside and not injured.

Coplen said the damage to the home was about $80,000.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation but Coplen said it is not suspicious.

Construction worker injured

A construction worker was transported to Niagara Falls Hospital early Tuesday morning after the man was struck by a piece of heavy equipment in Fort Erie.

Fort Erie Fire and Emergency Services were called to a site on High Street at 8:28 a.m.

"We just assisted the injured patient. The Ministry of Labour and police are investigating. I am not sure what happened," Fire Chief Larry Coplen said.

"From what I understand, the incident involved a backhoe and the person was injured. How and what happened, we don't know."

Although the worker's injuries were serious enough to require medical attention, Coplen said he didn't believe they were life-threatening.

According to a statement issued by the Town of Fort Erie Tuesday afternoon, the incident involved a V. Gibbons Contracting worker.

V. Gibbons Contracting was contracted by the Town to implement the Catherine Street sewer reconstruction project.

Following the accident, the injured worker was transported to the Niagara Falls hospital "to be treated for his injuries."

The Town reported that the Ministry of Labour has been contacted and is currently conducting an investigation.

GO-ahead given to Niagara

MARYANNE FIRTH
Postmedia Network

News that GO rail service will reach Niagara by 2021 is good news for all 12 municipalities in the region.

Commuter service to the region is expected to begin in Grimsby and will be expanded through to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls by 2023.

"This is a true no brainer," Mayor Wayne Redekop said.

"It will be great for Fort Erie and it will be good for Niagara. It may seem like a long time (before it arrives) but the decision is recognition by the provincial government that its needed infrastructure in Niagara."

The announcement was made by Ontario Transportation Minister Steven Del Duca last Tuesday on a packed platform at the St. Catharines train station.

The Niagara GO rail extension, subject to a final agreement with CN Rail, will operate on 60 kilometres of track between the future Confederation station in Hamilton — for which construction begins next year and will be completed in 2019 — and Niagara Falls.

It will include construction of a new station at Casablanca Boulevard in Grimsby, as well as upgrades to existing train stations in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls.

Those retrofits will begin as soon as summer 2017, Del Duca said.

"I think it's really important for the people of this community to recognize that starting next summer they will see a physical manifestation of our commitment to deliver trains with respect to the station upgrades."

In addition to the new and upgraded rail stations, the expansion will require a number of infrastructure improvements, including 30 kilometres of new track, existing track upgrades, a new layover facility in Niagara Falls and new additions to the fleet of trains.

Metrolinx is leading talks with CN, the owners of the rail corridor between Hamilton and Niagara Falls, to determine infrastructure needs and service levels, Del Duca said.

When an agreement with CN is reached, Metrolinx will undertake planning and design work required to implement the service.

"If, as a result of this important process, work can progress faster, it will," Del Duca said.

"I want to be clear about this. The funding is there. Our government's desire is there and we will deliver on this project."

The minister declined to comment on the expansion's overall cost, citing ongoing negotiations with CN.

"We don't tend to put a dollar figure out into the public sphere until we know exactly what work is required, because we don't want to effectively prejudice any outcome of any procurement that's required," he said. "But I can confirm that all of the internal approvals that I need from the government of Ontario are in place, including financial approvals to deliver on GO train service to Niagara."

Once negotiations with CN are complete and a "better sense" of exactly what the dollar figure will be, the community will be updated, he said.

Del Duca said discussions with CN, which also include details of exact ride times and number of Niagara trains, are going "very well" with a finalized agreement expected in the near future.

Service will take place in the morning and afternoon at minimum to start.

Del Duca commended the region, and all those who worked on the Niagara file, for their "continued and relentless advocacy for making sure that we get this right."

He gave particular praise to St. Catharines MPP Jim Bradley for constantly and continually pushing for Niagara GO.

"All of the work the region has done has helped to enforce the process," he said.

"We will deliver on a massive win for Niagara region."

The announcement was a proud moment for Regional Chairman Alan Caslin.

"Congratulations Niagara, we've finally done it," he told the crowd of supporters.

He outlined the hard work taken on by local, provincial and federal leaders, as well as staff, to make the GO dream a reality and credited all involved for their efforts.

"Regional council has been behind this project for years and made sound decisions to invest the resources needed to develop a strong business case," Caslin said.

Niagara presented the province with a business plan for the expansion in April 2015.

That plan recommended area trains connect to the James Street North GO station in Hamilton for transfer to the Lakeshore West line. That will instead take place through the Confederation station in Hamilton.

"Strengthening our connection to and from the GTHA (Greater Toronto Hamilton Area) enhances our ability to attract new people to Niagara, create new opportunities for job creation and business expansion," Caslin said. He estimated GO will provide an annual economic impact of about $195 million to the region.

"When you think about students, when you think about commuters going back and forth to work, when you think about tourists coming down to Niagara, all of this is now possible with the service that's going to be available to them on a daily basis," he said. "The impact to Niagara is going to be huge."

Tuesday's announcement emphasizes "the power of speaking with one voice," he said, adding it shows what a united Niagara can accomplish.

"Two years ago we weren't even on the radar of Metrolinx and GO."

Caslin felt the timeline provided by the province follows logical steps given the work taking place in Hamilton.

He was satisfied with a commitment from Del Duca that the process will be expedited if possible and pleased that upgrades to existing stations will begin next year.

Niagara has been preparing for the arrival of GO and working to ensure intermunicipal transit is available prior to the service's arrival.

"We will be ready," he said, adding transit will be up and running not only in the region's three largest cities, but also in its "extended communities."

Caslin said the local GO working group will continue to maintain momentum on the file "until the first train rolls down the tracks" to ensure the region is on the same page as Metrolinx and the province throughout implementation of the service.

St. Catharines Mayor Walter Sendzik said the GO commitment, regardless of the timeline, is one that was not in place 24 hours ago.

"The province has set aside full funding to get it from Grimsby to Niagara Falls, so it can't disappear," he said. "We now know that we have the certainty in funding, the certainty in the timeline they've provided, but we also have a better understanding now of what the construction schedule looks like."

Sendzik suspects the timeline will prompt Niagara's municipalities to ensure that if the dates can be accelerated, local infrastructure is in place to immediately support the service.

That includes having an inter-municipal transit system up and running, Niagara Falls Mayor Jim Diodati said, and that achievement is on the horizon.

"We're going to be ready to go. We're going to be ready really soon," he said of the transit working group with representation from Welland, Niagara Falls and St. Catharines, as well as the Region. "We want to merge this into one seamless regionally-integrated transit system — that's the goal that we're moving toward. We're doing that pretty expeditiously."

Diodati called the GO announcement historic for Niagara.

An approval by the treasury board of provincial dollars is "huge," he said. "That's not just politicking, that's committed dollars."

He felt the province was "playing it safe with their dates" for implementing the service, but is hopeful government will "under promise and over deliver."

"It's my hope and expectation we'll do all we can do to move that date forward to have GO service sooner rather than later."

Diodati said the opening of a new high-speed rail station in Niagara Falls, N.Y., in July should create a "heightened sense of interest" to get the expansion completed as soon as possible.

"We're going to have a connection between Toronto and New York City and it just so happens to go through Niagara."

The mayor said he hoped to learn more about why the service was unable to immediately begin despite summer weekend GO service already being offered in Niagara.

Metrolinx chief operating officer Greg Percy said CN provides "operating windows" to allow for that summer service, but continued negotiations are needed in order to get weekday service underway. Those windows ensure no interruption to CN's freight operation schedule.

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Two Fort Erie families benefit from President's Choice Children's Charity

KRIS DUBÉ/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Two Fort Erie families received assistance through the President Choice Children's Charity on the weekend. Joe Ambrosio, owner of Joe's Valu-Mart in Ridgeway, presidents the Antayas with a cheque for $20,000, which will be used to help the family purchase a wheelchair accessible van. The Freeman-Tykolis family received a cheque for $2,790 to purchased a hospital bed and mattress topper. Liam Freeman-Tykolis and William Antaya, along with staff from Joe's Valu-Mart, on Saturday.

KRIS DUBÉ
Special to the Fort Erie Times

Life has been made a lot easier for two local families through the President's Choice Children's Charity.

On Saturday, at Joe's Valu-Mart in Ridgeway, store owner and manager Joe Ambrosio was delighted to present to Marcus and Lori-Dawn Antaya, along with their son William, a cheque for $20,000, which will be used for a wheelchair accessible van.

As well, Stephanie Freeman and her son Liam Freeman-Tykolis were the recipients of a $2,790-grant – to be used for a hospital bed and mattress topper.

For the Antaya family, the $20,000 will go toward the $45,000 cost of a new wheelchair accessible vehicle – replacing the ordinary minivan they currently use.

They will also be receiving a $5,000-donation from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 230 in Ridgeway. The March of Dimes will be pitching in $15,000 and the Easter Seals will contribute $3,000 toward the Antayas' cause.

A remaining $2,700 will need to be covered by the family.

Knowing that William is continuing to grow and that their vehicle was gradually getting less comfortable for him to get in and out of – Lori-Dawn and her husband Marcus were dreading having to make such a large financial decision on their own.

"It's such a daunting number to look at – we weren't sure what we were going to do," she said.

"We are just so overwhelmed and appreciative," she said.

William has cerebral palsy, cortical vision impairment, epilepsy and microcephaly.

Liam Freeman-Tykolis is a 16-year-old who was diagnosed with a smooth brain at six weeks old, says his mother Stephanie.

He also has cerebral palsy and complications with seizures, brittle bones and regular pain throughout his body, explained his mother.

CONTINUED > PAGE 13

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A donation has been made to the Canadian Cancer Society in Memory of Chester Wells.

Families thankful for the support

CONTINUED > FROM PAGE 12

Last November, DNA test results indicated that Liam may be living with Kabuki syndrome, a disorder that causes multiple abnormalities.

The donation received this week will cover the cost of the bed and mattress topper, already purchased by Liam's family.

Stephanie said it has allowed Liam to be in less pain and that the gift received this weekend is greatly appreciated.

"It really has been an amazing addition – enhancing his life and making our life easier too," said Freeman.

"Making him comfortable – that's our goal – but it really is a challenge," she added.

"It's wonderful to be able to help a child reach their full potential. We are so proud to partner with President's Choice Children's Charity and to help children right here in our own community," said Joe Ambrosio, owner and manager of the grocery store in Ridgeway.

Staff at the store have raised money toward this gift through the generous support of customers during in-store campaigns, direct employee contributions and in-store donations and icon events.

All funds raised by the charity in Ontario go directly toward supporting Ontario families whose children have physical or development disabilities, as well as nutrition programs aimed at fighting childhood hunger.

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KRIS DUBÉ/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Scoop McCoy entertains the crowd on Canada Day at the Central Fire Station.

Dezirae Duclos practicing her firefighting skills with a little help from Mike Grover at the Central Firefighters Association's Canada Day celebration.

Firefighters host successful Canada Day celebration

KRIS DUBÉ
Special to the Fort Erie Times

Fort Erie wouldn't have been the same without a Canada Day celebration.

With this year's Friendship Festival scheduled for the third week of July – members of the Central Firefighters Association decided to take matters into their own hands and host an event for local families.

"It's the first weekend of summer for local kids and there was nothing for them to do," said event co-chair and volunteer firefighter Eli Babcock.

Those who weren't deterred by the gloomy weather were treated to a magic show, bouncy house, refreshments and a hands-on opportunity to learn more about what the Fort Erie Fire Department does.

Blasting a target with a high-pressure hose, sitting behind the wheel of a pump truck, or getting a glimpse of some of the Fort Erie Fire Department's water rescue fleet – there was plenty to showcase.

Opened in 2013, the Central Fire Station is an amalgamation of two companies who now operate out of the same location.

Visible from the event is the ongoing Central Avenue Bridge Replacement project – a $12-million undertaking being mostly covered by Niagara Region.

With so much work taking place and the bridge being closed for an extended period of time – Babcock says the Canada Day event provided a chance for people who live in the surrounding areas to check out the new building – if they haven't already.

"There's not a lot of foot traffic through here – especially with the construction," he said.

On June 25, the Central Firefighters' Association also hosted a movie night – showing Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Babcock said it was received with only positive feedback from the community and that plans for another screening are already set for Aug. 27.

An online poll is circulating on social media – asking local residents what motion picture they would like to see shown.

Local magician Scoop McCoy provided entertainment at the event and the Kinsmen Pool also offered a free day of public swimming.

KRIS DUBÉ/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Brayden Balasiak having a blast in the bouncy house at the Central Avenue Fire Station on Canada Day.

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Airbus Helicopter Canada expands Gilmore Road facility

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The expansion of Airbus Helicopter Canada's Gilmore Road operation comes as good news to the community.

"It shows that Fort Erie is definitely open for business and that we have a strong and talented workforce here," Romain Trapp, the company's chief operating officer and president, said.

Employees marked the occasion with a celebration last Monday.

Trapp was joined by a number of special guests and dignitaries for the ribbon cutting ceremony at the facility, which provides specially built aircraft for customers across Canada and the world.

Trapp said the expansion, which adds an extra 5,000 square feet to the building, "is an increase of 65 per cent for the company's repair and overhaul department."

"It is our main priority to keep our customers' aircraft operating at peak performance. With this expansion, we will increase the efficiency of our repair and overhaul capabilities, resulting in faster turn-around-time when an aircraft requires service," he added.

According to Trapp, the addition is a result of the high demand for service from customers both domestically and internationally.

Five years ago, there was a dramatic increase in AS350/H125 aircraft sales worldwide. Many of these aircraft, which see 300 to 600 hours of flight hours per year, are coming due for overhaul.

In addition to more work space, Trapp said the improvement to the facility will create "high paying jobs" to assist with the high demand.

Airbus Helicopters started operations in Canada in 1984 in Fort Erie. The company, formerly known as Eurocopter Canada, was renamed Airbus Helicopters Canada in early 2014.

Its parent company, Airbus Helicopters, is based in, France. It's the world's No. 1 helicopter manufacturer and employs more than 22,000 people worldwide.

saferguson@postmedia.com

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Airbus Helicopters Canada has expanded its Gilmore Road facility. About 5,000 square-feet of space has been added. Employees marked the occasion last week with a celebration. From left are Benoit Marcoux, director of support and services, Romain Trapp, president of Airbus Helicopters Canada and Mayor Wayne Redekop.

Excelling at academics

FORT ERIE SECONDARY SCHOOL/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

A graduation ceremony for Fort Erie Secondary School students was held last Wednesday at the high school in Fort Erie. Shanna Ingram, pictured here with vice-principal Crane Gittins and principal Fred Louws, was named valedictorian. Ingram also received the school's Excellence in Education Award and the Governor General's Award.

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

A graduation ceremony was held for Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School Students last Wednesday at the high school in Ridgeway. Levi Fretz pictured here with RCBHS principal John Shaw, was chosen as this year's valedictorian.

FIRE

FIRE PREVENTION SMARTS

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Speaker: Deone Drake

Deone Drake cannot remember a time when he resisted or resented hearing or listening to the Gospel. He knew the story well – of how to connect to Christ, he knew and heard the story so often that he didn't feel he needed it desperately. That realization came three weeks after high school. After struggling with the question of what to do with his life, Deone gave his life completely to Christ on July 17, 1976. Deone loves talking to people about God's word – how He has spoken and what it means if we obey Him. Deone is currently the Singles and Teaching Pastor at The Chapel at Crosspoint and loves that he gets to witness and participate in the activity of God every day. Deone is married to Patricia, and they have one son, Jonathan, who also serves as a Pastor on staff at The Chapel.

Worship Leader: Tim Aikin and the Mosaic Band

Tim Aikin leads the Mosaic Praise Band, a resident Worship Band for the Adult Singles Ministry at The Chapel at Crosspoint. Tim plays guitar and does lead vocals. The Mosaic Praise Band is best known for their seamless mix of contemporary and traditional Christian worship music and will be playing for the very first time this year at Church on the Beach.

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Unique treasures can be found at indoor market

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The Bridgeburg Indoor Market has something to offer everyone.

Organizer Carolina Marler said the market, which runs every Tuesday between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., may be small but has a variety of arts and crafts, handmade baby clothing, blankets, and plenty of other items.

The market is a continuation of the Bridgeburg Indoor Fall Market that ran during the winter months at 207 Jarvis St.

"I took this on because I wanted to make a difference in this town," Marler said.

The market struggling because people don't realize it's there, she said.

"It was really well-received in the winter but people don't know that we are open year-round."

A handful of vendors have committed to seeing the market through until the end of the summer.

Marler hopes to expand the market as it gains popularity.

"I want to add a variety of things so there is something different each week. We'll have face painting, clowns, Scentsy, and a chain saw artist."

Branden Holoday of Port Colborne recently joined the market to sell his handcrafted items including chairs, benches and decorations that are made from reclaimed wood.

He decided to get involved in the Fort Erie market to support the community.

"I enjoy making things and it's fun for me to share my work," he said.

"The best part is I am able to sell my work and I can get to be part of this market."

Vendors are always needed. Anyone interested in participating in the market can call Marler at 289-241-0195.

saferguson@postmedia.com

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Branden Holoday, and his partner, Tiffany, from Port Colborne, sell items at the Bridgeburg Indoor Market on Jarvis Street that runs every Tuesday. Holoday makes furniture and other items using reclaimed wood.

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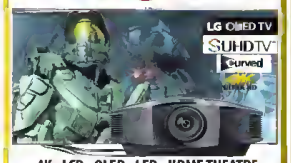

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Heritage plaques reveal Ridgeway's history

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

A building is more than just its walls, windows, doors and roof.

With some more than a century old, many of the buildings in downtown Ridgeway have interesting stories to tell.

It's those stories that Ada Sherk said she wanted to know.

Because Sherk has an interest in learning more about how downtown Ridgeway came to be, as it is known today, Sherk thought others might as well.

She approached a number of business owners and inquired if they would be interested in a project to highlight Ridgeway's heritage.

With approval from nine business owners, she set to work researching how these businesses came to be.

Using resources from the Fort Erie Historical Museum, Sherk uncovered a lot of history that people may not be aware of.

"While researching the history of the buildings, I looked at who built them, what businesses were in these buildings and who lived there," she said.

Sherk used the newly rediscovered information to have nine historical plaques created and installed outside the local businesses.

The idea, Sherk said, is to have pedestrians walk by and stop to read each building's history.

While researching, Sherk said she enjoyed learning about the beginnings of a number of businesses, including Trailside's Bar and Grill.

According to her research, Sherk said the building was constructed in the 1800s. The owner applied for a liquor licence but the Township already had two, which meant he couldn't have one.

"The owner hired an arsonist to burn down the competition, Queen's Hotel, and the person hired to do it was a man from Buffalo. There was a very big trial," Sherk said.

The owner of Boggio and Edward's Pharmacy was a doctor whose lineage could be traced back to the Mayflower, she said.

Sherk partnered with the Ridgeway Business Improvement Association to have the heritage plaques made and installed.

If there is more interest in the project, Sherk said more could be added.

"If there is a good response from the community, I would be happy to do more plaques."

saferguson@postmedia.com

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Ada Sherk stands beside Brodie's Drug Store owner Sam Bashta. Sherk spent several months researching the history of some of the local businesses in downtown Ridgeway. Her research was used to create plaques, including the one in front of Brodie's Drug Store. The plaques give a brief history of each building.

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SATURDAY (North)

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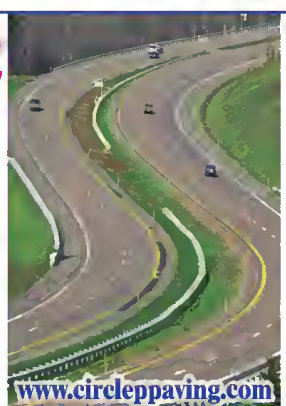

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Bursaries for grads

JOYCE LEA/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Zonta Club of Fort Erie recently held a reception for two Lakeshore Catholic High School graduates. The club presented Haley Kranics and Madeleine Pellegrini with Zonta Club Scholarship awards. The scholarships are awarded annually to female students living in the Fort Erie area who are continuing their studies in post secondary education and have excelled in their scholastic studies and achievements and also community involvement. The Zonta Club is a service club for business and professional women in Fort Erie whose focus is to empower women. The Fort Erie chapter of the Zonta Club was chartered in 1982.

A dream vacation for Tristan

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

The Fort Erie Meteors raised $1,000 and recently presented the cheque to the Romeo family. The money will be used to help send eight-year-old Tristan, and his brothers Damon and Xander, on a dream vacation to Legoland in Florida. Tristan was diagnosed with medulloblastoma, a brain tumor. He recently completed a year-long chemotherapy treatment and his family is celebrating with the once-in-a-lifetime trip. From left, are Dakota Miskolczi, Mike Masotti, Alex Hurren, Tristan Romeo, Bryce Martin, Damon Romeo, Paolo Sivilotti and Xander Romeo.

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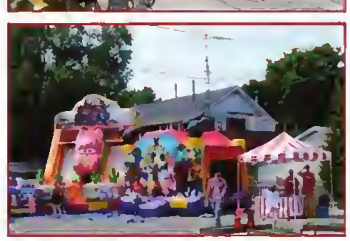

Police Brief

Two men arrested for breaking into parked cars

Niagara Regional Police say two men were arrested after they allegedly broke into parked cars.

Police were called to the area of Prospect Point Road South in Fort Erie at 4:30 a.m. last Tuesday in response to a call regarding two men entering parked cars.

Both men were subsequently apprehended with a quantity of stolen goods.

Garrett Garner, 21, and Christopher Johnson, 18, were charged with two counts of possession of property obtained by crime and possession of break in instruments.

Both men were held pending a bail hearing in St. Catharines.

Briefs

Entertainers needed for festival show

The organizer behind Festival's Got Talent is looking for a variety of singers, dancers, magicians and others.

"We need a minimum of 25 people but we can accommodate up to 40 performers," Flo Odding said.

"Any talent is welcome. It can really be anything. In the past, we've had musicians, break dancing and instruments," she added.

The annual event, which is part of the Friendship Festival, has been planned for Sunday, July 24 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded to the top performers, which will be selected by a panel of judges and an audience vote.

The fee is $15 for a single performer, $25 for a duet or $30 for a group. The deadline to apply is July 14.

Applications are available online at www.friendshipfestival.com/festivals-got-talent/. For more information e-mail inquiry@friendshipfestival.com or call 905-871-6454.

Friendship Festival volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed for the Friendship Festival, to be held from July 21 to 24 this year.

Festival organizer Flo Odding said approximately 100 volunteers are required for a variety of jobs that include ticket sellers, bar tenders, greeters, parking attendants as well as a set up crew and clean up crew.

"People of all ages are welcome and people who are in wheel chairs or can't stand for long periods of time are welcome as there are lots of places to work, including jobs where people can sit," Odding said.

Volunteers typically work in four-hour shifts and can give as much time as they wish, whether it's for one day or during the entire event.

Although volunteers are encouraged to sign up early, they will be accepted until the day before the festival.

Volunteers will be entered into a daily draw for free midway tickets.

For more information call 905-871-6454 or e-mail inquiry@friendshipfestival.com.

Golf tournament in memory of Kelsey Hill

The 4th annual Kelsey Hill Memorial Golf Fundraiser, planned for Saturday, July 16 at 1:30 p.m., will be held at the Fort Erie Golf Club, at 1150 Sunset Dr.

Proceeds from the golf tournament will be donated to the McMaster University Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute and Ronald McDonald House Hamilton.

The fee is $80 per person and includes 18 holes of golf, cart, and steak dinner. A vegetarian option is also available.

For those that don't want to golf, but want to support the event, there is a dinner only option. The cost is $35 for adults, or $12 for children under 12.

For more information or to register call the Fort Erie Golf Club at 905-991-8883.

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Photo illustration: Emily Cooper

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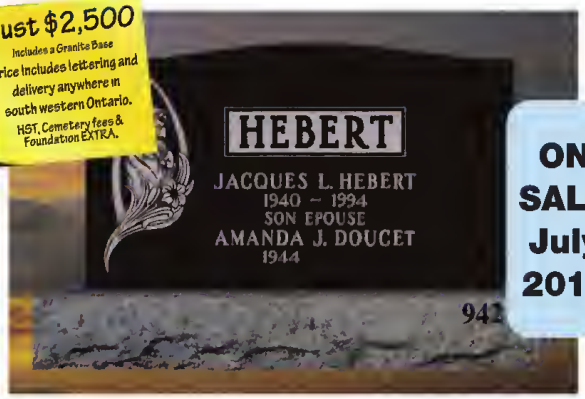

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Fort Erie Horticultural Society celebrates 95 years

RUTH VOLD MARKLE
Special to the Fort Erie Times

What does it feel like to be told you have aged five years in just a few minutes?

The Fort Erie Horticultural Society's members learned what it felt like to abruptly age five years when the group celebrated what was thought to be its 90th anniversary on June 14.

Members of the horticultural society learned the group actually had its beginning 95 years ago.

The news came as a shock but it didn't dampened the celebrations. Members enjoyed fresh food, cake, visits with many community friends and a recognition of past executives who have served so well through the years.

Special guests included students, Rowan Keary and Cory Winger, and their families along with James Graham, past president of the Ontario Horticulture Association.

The Fort Erie Horticultural Society presented a bursary worth $750 to both students to help with their horticulture studies.

With support from fundraising efforts, the society's members have set a goal to support three students from the community next year.

Individuals interested in donating to help students study horticulture please contact society president Shirley Stoppard at 905-871-8794 .

Grateful for community support

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

After more than 30 years of serving Fort Erie, the LaRoche family wishes to thank the community for its support over the years. Frank LaRoche (left) opened Erie Collision in 1978. He said his wife Sharon played an important role in the business, often spending many long hours managing the office and looking after customers. The business was one of the first autobody shops in Fort Erie. When Frank retired in 2004, his son Jay LaRoche (right) took over the business. Jay decided to retire from the business to focus on family and try new things. Erie Collision closed its doors at the end of May.

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Movie night in the park

JOSEPH BURD/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Central Firefighters Association hosted a successful outdoor movie night in Sugarbowl Park on June 25. The event, which featured a screening of Star Wars: The Force Awakens, was well attended and featured some movie-goers dressed up in costume. Plans for another screening are already set for Aug. 27. An online poll is circulating on social media asking residents what film they would like to see shown.

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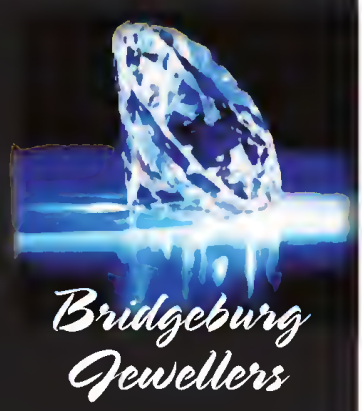

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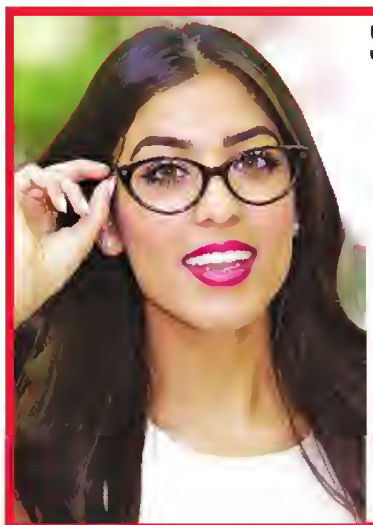

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Three people rescued from Lake Erie; Boaters had to cling to capsized catamaran for more than an hour

BERND FRANKE
Postmedia Network

Three people, including one showing signs of shock and possible hypothermia, were rescued Saturday more than a kilometre offshore after high waves capsized their catamaran in Lake Erie.

Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (POCOMAR) volunteers managed to save the three, all of whom were wearing lifejackets, but were unable to tow their boat to safety.

"There just wasn't enough time because of the wind direction and heading," said Sheila Lindsey, coxswain on POCOMAR's largest rescue boat.

"We ran out of water underneath the boat."

Rescuers, who responded to a 911 call from shore shortly before 5 p.m., found the people clinging to the capsized vessel. They had been in the water for nearly an hour, Lindsey said.

It was POCOMAR's 19th call of the season and one of its most difficult. Waves as high as 2.5 metres and winds gusting to 50 km/h made it difficult to approach the catamaran.

Lindsey called the rescue one of the most challenging ones yet.

"The crew on board did a phenomenal job. We just implemented our training," she said.

Volunteers Bill Gearheart, Dave Johnson and Dave Thorpe were on the rescue boat along with Lindsey and unit commander Norm Dashwood.

The reports made to 911 stated people on shore said the catamaran capsized somewhere between Sugarloaf Point and Morgan's Point.

"When we arrived on scene, we spotted all three people holding on," Lindsey said.

"We were able to get all three people safely onboard, but couldn't safely tow the catamaran."

She said with one person showing signs of possible hypothermia after prolonged exposure to the 19°C water, the priority was returning to shore and getting medical care.

Two of the people on the catamaran are from the Toronto area. The other is from Port Colborne.

The Canadian Coast Guard station in Prescott, Ont., south of Ottawa, relayed a message to the Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Trenton asking for Niagara EMS paramedics to meet the rescue vessel at the boat launch at H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park in Port Colborne.

POCOMAR volunteers went back for the catamaran after the three people were transferred into the care of paramedics, but by then it was too late. By the time, the rescue vessel arrived on the scene the catamaran had drifted into the west end of a breakwall and was up against rocks.

"We couldn't do anything," Lindsey said.

"We had to leave it there unfortunately."

The rescue marked the second call of the day for the unit. Volunteers were dispatched to a report of a boat being hung up in the Bay Beach area of Fort Erie but were called back.

They also stood down later in the day when boats from the Fort Erie fire department were able to rescue at least three people reported needing assistance in the water off Crystal Beach.

The all-volunteer unit, part of the Canadian Coast Guard auxiliary, covers Lake Erie from the mouth of the Niagara River to the mouth of the Grand River in Haldimand County, an area of approximately 432 square kilometres and 63 km of shoreline.

BFranke@postmedia.com

DAVE JOHNSON PHOTO COURTESY PORT COLBORNE MARINE AUXILIARY RESCUE

Two people cling to their capsized catamaran awaiting rescue by the POCOMAR Canadian Coast Guard auxiliary unit Saturday in Lake Erie. Three people were rescued more than a kilometre offshore, but the catamaran couldn't be towed to shore.

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Rio Vista Retirees results

RIO VISTA RETIREES
Special to the Fort Erie Times

Thanks to the wonderful weather this year the Rio Vista Retirees have not missed a game yet.

Fifty senior golfers showed up last Wednesday morning to play the game they love. Of course Mother Nature should give us some much needed rain as the golf course is beginning to suffer from the drought.

The 50/50 draw was won by Harry Visser.

Closest to the pin on number seven went to Ken Lamalice and only six people managed to drive onto the green.

The hidden hole this time was the par four fifth. Two guys had some remarkable chip-ins from well off the green. John Lunn managed that feat on the first hole and Neil McKinnon did the same on the third.

First place winners were Al Plato, Jim Dumelie, Cliff Wilson and Bob Chapman. Second place was the team of Warren Hanks, Dave Kramer, Ron Winger and Doug Horner.

Third place winners were Neil McKinnon, Ralph Tangness, Tony Vanderklei and Wayne Learn. This week will be the individual Beat Your Own Handicap event. High scores are expected as this is the week that the handicaps are re-set.

WWW.FORTERIETIMES.CA

Annual charity game to benefit Alivia's Rainbows

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

FORT ERIE TIMES FILE PHOTO

The Fort Erie Cannons and the Welland Chiefs celebrated their third annual charity game for Alivia's Rainbows at Oaks Park..

The Fort Erie Cannons will don yellow T-shirts in honour of Alivia's Rainbows.

Planned for Saturday, July 9, the senior men's baseball team's annual charity game will begin at 5 p.m.

The Cannons will host their rivals, the Welland Chiefs, in a "fun" match-up.

"We get along very well in the (senior men's baseball) league," Cannons general manager Clayton Hall said.

The Welland Chiefs have been happy to partner with the Cannons each year to raise funds for the non-profit organization, which helps families in Niagara with children receiving treatment at McMaster Children's Hospital.

The charity was formed after Craig and Chantal Vanderklei, of Fort Erie, lost their three-and-a-half-year-old daughter Alivia to stage four-neuroblastoma cancer.

The annual event has raised more than $8,000 for Alivia's Rainbows.

Hall said the charity game would be exciting for fans of senior men's baseball to watch.

"Fort Erie is 2-0 (in the charity game series). We hope to beat them on Saturday because we owe them a defeat. They beat us twice so far this year so they are up for this one," Clayton said.

Hall said everyone is invited to Oakes Park before the game starts for festivities beginning at 3 p.m. Events will include a silent auction, penny raffles, a barbecue, ice cream and entertainment. A rain date has been planned for Sunday, July 10.

There is no charge for admission, but donations to the food bank at Community Outreach Program Erie are appreciated.

safergusson@postmedia.com

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(In photo, Chris Kotsios is third from the left)
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Cannons improve record to 7-5

KRIS DUBÉ/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Fort Erie Cannons celebrated a 12-5 victory over the visiting St. Catharines Cobras last Wednesday. Cannons Coach Justin Hall said the win was "a solid team effort." Pat Giampaolo, Nick Weglarz and Geordan Dennahower scored home runs. The Cannons stand 7-5 in the Niagara District Senior Men's Baseball League. The Cannons hit the road Tuesday night to face the Thorold Fantoms. The results were not available before the Fort Erie Times press deadline.

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We look forward to hearing from you. Call or stop in at 336 Central Ave. Fort Erie
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Interested candidates must apply in writing to express their interest in the position, with a cover letter and resume, outlining their education, experience and related qualifications to *FortisOntario* Human Resources sources no later than **July 31, 2016** by e-mail to HR@FortisOntario.com. Please indicate **"IT SYS ADMIN"** in the subject line.

We thank all respondents for their interest, however, we will only respond to those selected for an interview. FortisOntario is Committed to accommodating applicants with disabilities and will work with applicants requesting accommodation at any stage of the recruitment cycle. FortisOntario is an inclusive employer and committed to **Accessibility.**

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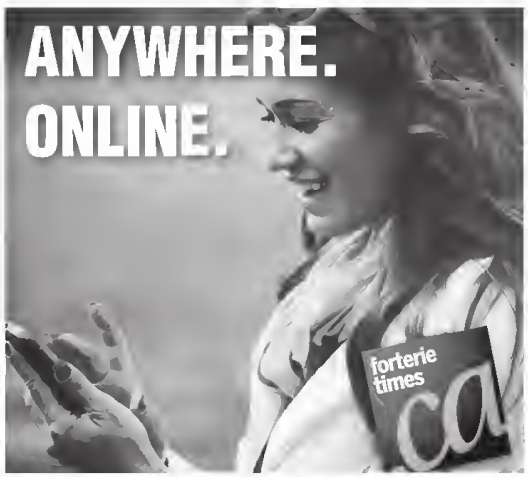
Legals

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS

ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of **VERNA EVELYN JAMIESON**, late of the Town of Fort Erie, in the Regional Municipality of Niagara, who died on or about May 27, 2016 are notified to send full particulars to the undersigned on or before July 8, 2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed with regard only to the claims of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have notice.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2016

JOHN T. TEAL, Esq.,
Barrister and Solicitor,
P.O. Box 247,
1200 Thompson Road,
Fort Erie, Ontario,
L2A 5M9.
Solicitor for the Estate Trustee Darrell Keith Jamieson



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Jim & Marg Frazer
Set. July 16th 2016.

Drop into 31 King St. Fort Erie
from 1:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Sat. July 16th, 2016.

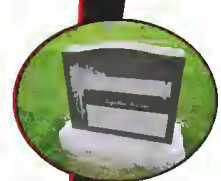
BEST WISHES ONLY!

MCINERNY, Lilian - Lilian passed away at the Brampton Civic Hospital on June 28, 2016 at the age of 81. Beloved wife of the late Neil. Cherished mother of Berenice (Jason) Jones. Loving grandmother of Quinn and Piper. She will be sadly missed by her sister Anne (Ken) Wilkinson. Predeceased by brothers Richerd and Leonerd Chadwick, end her sisters Olive Bryant (Ron), and Joan Daniszewski. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Saturday July 2nd from 11 am until the time of the Funeral Service in the Chapel at 1 pm. Interment to follow at McAffee Cemetery. If so desired, donations to the William Osler Health System Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

BOLES, Terry William - On July 3rd, 2016 while surrounded by the love of his family and 5 years to the day of losing his loving wife June, Terry joined her for a dance. Terry passed away at the Greater Niagara General Hospital at the age of 82. Proud father of John (Debra) Boles, Chris (Peggy) Boles, Terri (Mike) Webb and Heather (Brad) Lorking. Loving grandfather of Ryan, Krista, Holly, Sarah, Ally, Jake and great-grandchildren Dekin, Sylas and Auzlyn. Sadly missed by his sisters Joan Illingsworth, Karen (Ron) Payne, Alaine (Jerry) Chobrda, Gail (the late Derek) Bradley, Laurie (Ray) Wensley, his brothers Harvey (Maggie), Lyn (Carol), sisters-in-law Joan (Don) Hall end Theresa Boles and their families. Predeceased by his granddaughter Autumn and his brother Marty. Terry always looked forward to coffee time with Jack Smith who enriched his life with his friendship. His four legged friend Buddy had a permanent place on his lap. The family express their appreciation to Paramed, especially Miriam and Ron who provided dignified and compassionate care. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 6-9 pm. Funeral Services will be conducted in the Funeral Chapel on Friday morning at 11 o'clock. Cremation will follow. If so desired, donations to the Diabetic Association or a charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
love leaves a memory no one can steal.
-From a Headstone in Ireland

Obituaries | Obituaries | Obituaries | Obituaries



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Obituaries

WORAM, Melody Ann (nee: Beam) 67 years of age, died peacefully at her home on Sunday, April 3, 2016, after a short illness. As the angels wrapped their arms around her, she was holding the hands of her loving daughter and son-in-law, and was surrounded by her family and close friends. Melody was born in Canada on January 12, 1949 to her parents Earl and Ina Beam of Stevensville, Ontario. She resided in Stevensville & Fort Erie,Canada for 32 years. In 1969, Melody was part of a duo husband-wife team that built a custom sailboat, believed to be the only one of its size in North America. Upon its completion in 1971, she sailed from Canada to the British Virgin Islands. She was set to sail to England for a trip around the world when a final medical check-up revealed she was pregnant. They sailed back to Canada, arriving with only weeks to spare before the birth of her daughter in September 1977. Melody, always proud of her Canadian roots gave up the snow in 1981 moving to Florida. She has made her home in the Fort Walton area for the past 35 years. Melody's gift was her ability to make others feel special and amazing. She always found the goodness in people. She was a fierce red-head, hardworking, independent lady. She was e favorite to her many neighbors and friends. *You were truly blessed if you knew her.* Melody's true love of life centered around her loving, loyal daughter Nicole Rewis, her caring, dependable son-in-law Chad, and her two beautiful grandchildren Cole and Kellan Rewis, all of Destin, Florida. Together their lives were full of love, hugs and so much more. In addition to her daughter, Melody is survived by her loving nieces and nephews, whom adored her and to whom Melody was exceptionally close; great nieces, nephews and her many friends which include her Canadian friends of 60+ years. Melody is preceded in death by her parents Earl and Ina Beam; and brother Michael Beam. On **Friday, July 8, 2016 at 11:00 am a grave side service** will be held at St. John's Anglican Church on 2251 Ridgemount Road, Stevensville, Ontario. Service was held in her place of residence, Fort Walton Beach, Florida but Melody wanted her final resting place to be at home in Stevensville, Ontario, Canada. Melody was a devout animal lover therefore, in lieu of flowers, the family requests donetions be made to SPCA or COPE.

Obituaries

MILLER, Helen Mable - (1947-2016) - Peacefully at the Douglas Memorial Hospital on Sunday June 26, 2016 following a brave battle with Lung Cancer. Survived by her husband of 46 years Glenn. Sister of Robert and Mary. Aunt of Calvin, Jim, Richard, Quinn, Kyle, Connor, Laura, Lisa and Shannon. Arrangements entrusted to **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd. North, Ridgeway. Cremation has taken place. A service to celebrate Helen's life will be held at the funeral home on Saturday July 9th, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. A reception will follow. For those who wish, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Douglas Memorial Hospital Palliative Care.

Death Notices

CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF KEN KELLS

Please join family and friends for the 'Celebration of Life' for Ken Kells on Saturday July 16th from 1 - 4 p.m. at The Sanctuary located at 209 Ridge Rd. Ridgeway.

Obituaries

SMITH, Miriam Mabel - On Tuesday June 26th, 2016, Miriam peacefully passed away, with her family by her side, at the Greater Niagara General Hospital at the age of 93. Predeceased by her loving husband Robert Douglas (1983). Dear mother of Joan (Ron) Horton and Margaret (Herb) Maracle. Cherished Gram to Ronald Douglas (Tammy) and Andrew Scott (Pauline). Great-Gram to Lyndsay, Ashley, Petra and Alexander. Predeceased by siblings Jack, Helen, Melvin (Dee), Betty, Peter, Donald and Diane. Miriam will be sadly missed by several nephews and nieces. A special thank you to Dr. Che, the nursing home staff at Crescent Park Lodge, the nursing staff at GNGH, especially Cathy M. Cathy was our comforting angel and helped mom go home to be with dad. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** 722 Ridge Rd N. Ridgeway entrusted with arrangements. A graveside service will be held at Ridgeway Memorial Cemetery, Ridgeway, on Friday July 6th, 2016 at 3:30 in the afternoon. In memory of Miriam those who wish may donate to the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Foundation or to the Asthma Society of Canada.

"When you speak of her, speak not with tears, for thoughts of her should not be sad. Let memories of the times you shared give you comfort, for her life was rich because of you."

-Author Unknown

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IN MEMORY

In Memoriams

In loving memory of
Jean Margaret Hilston
who passed July 3, 2011.

What would we give her hand to clasp,
Her patient face to see,
To hear her voice, to see her smile,
As in the days that used to be.
But some sweet day we'll meet again
Beyond the toil and strife,
And clasp each other's hand once more,
In Heaven, that happy life.

Love Tom, Tommy Jr., David and Karen, Brandon and Ty and your loving family.

June Boles
In loving memory of my sister who passed away July 3, 2011

You are forever in my thoughts and eternally in my heart.
"Keep dancing" big sister.

Love you forever, Joan.

May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared comfort you.

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WOW! $202† bi/wkly

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